

CARLSBAD AVENUES

Let's talk about PARKS

The General Plan is the blueprint for the City's development. The Carlsbad City Council, recognizing that parks and recreation facilities contribute significantly to residents' quality of life, required the incorporation of a Parks and Recreation Element within the Plan. The Element established the foundation for current operation and future development of park facilities and recreation programs.

The Park Performance Standard of Carlsbad's Growth Management Plan adopted in 1986 "requires three acres of Community Park and Special Use Area per 1,000 population within a park district."

Carlsbad's park system offers something for everyone who lives, works and plays in the City. Although early parks (such as Magee Park, where the land was donated by Florence Shipley Magee, and Rotary Park, which was named for the Rotarians who helped build it) sprung up as Carlsbad evolved, park development over the last several decades has been governed by specific plans.

Lots of ways to "park it" in Carlsbad

A one-size-fits-all approach does not work in park development. To satisfy different people's desires for optimum leisure experiences, Carlsbad parks offer a variety of features. These include:

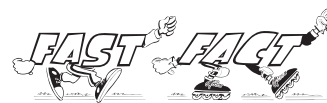
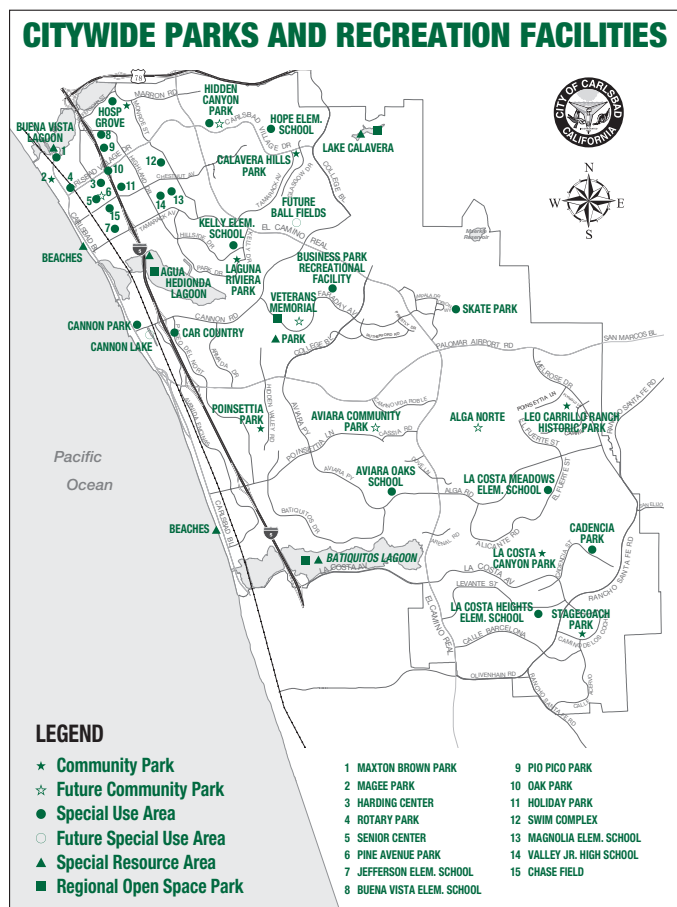
- ballfields • soccer fields • multi-purpose fields
- tennis, basketball and volleyball courts • horseshoe pits and shuffleboard areas • picnic tables and barbecues • tot lots
- indoor gyms and meeting rooms • restrooms and drinking fountains
- specialty features such as gazebos and bandshells
- trails and open space

Definitions of use

- **Active features** provide organized recreation opportunities through facilities such as gyms, swimming pools and ballfields.
- **Passive features** provide facilities such as picnic tables and nature trails.

Categories of parks

- **Community parks** such as Calavera, Poinsettia and Stagecoach serve the recreational needs of several neighborhoods. They offer an array of active and passive facilities. With a service radius of about two miles, these community parks are generally 20-50 acres. However, some older, smaller parks (such as Laguna Riviera and La Costa Canyon) were grandfathered into this category.
- **Special use areas** such as Cannon and Cadencia parks and the Skatepark are under five acres and contain one or two activities. Aquatics and senior facilities also fall into this category.
- **Special resource areas** offer a distinctive character or unique use. Lake Calavera, the three lagoons, and the beach areas are examples of this classification, which offers an abundance of ecological and recreational value to people and wildlife alike.



When Carlsbad is built out, there will be 485 acres of parks throughout the city.

Informed Involvement Is Our Goal.

AVENUES publications are created by the City of Carlsbad to communicate why things are the way they are today ... and to explain how you can help direct their progress in the future.

A brief history of park development

General Plan

Under California state law, cities must adopt a general plan with seven mandatory elements, along with other elements that impact the city's physical development. The City of Carlsbad's General Plan includes a Parks and Recreation Element as an important "other" element.

Quimby Act

In 1965, the California legislature, through the Quimby Act, authorized local governments to require developers to provide land and/or fees to acquire/develop parks and recreation facilities.

Growth Management Plan

In 1986, Carlsbad citizens approved Proposition E, the foundation of Carlsbad's Growth Management Plan (GMP). The GMP requires facilities needed to service new development be in place concurrent with growth.

Recreational trends

Park development is an evolutionary continuum in which facilities and amenities are linked to the changing requirements of cities and citizens. During the 1980s, in keeping with the shift in recreational trends from passive to active uses, smaller parks gave way to larger parks offering a selection of active and passive uses.



Hosp Grove Park is a "hole" lot of fun for Patrick Lopez.

The process of park development

Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither is a city park. Each new park requires a comprehensive process that meticulously addresses details while remaining focused on the big picture.

- Site acquisition – All but one future parksite has been identified.
- Facility guidelines – Once a site has been acquired, facility and amenity planning begins in earnest. Each park is unique, as is each neighborhood group that will be the primary user of the park.

- Collaborative process –The "players" in park development are many. Together, they form a team that ensures the new park will meet parkgoers' needs and wants for years to come. The team consists of:
 - CITY STAFF: Parks and Recreation to Planning, Public Works and Finance.
 - CONSULTANTS: experts commissioned to assist staff.
 - ADVISORS: members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission.
 - CITY COUNCIL: members direct the process, review the plans and provide final approval of the park plan and the budget for the park.
 - COMMUNITY: citizens who provide input during the planning stages and determination of amenities all the way through Capital Improvement Program budgeting.



Once the money for a new park is initially budgeted, the park generally opens in four to five years.



Stagecoach Park.

Public input is key

Public input is sought, encouraged and definitely utilized throughout the development process. "As someone who has worked in Parks and Recreation for more than 25 years, I understand the value of listening to residents and the importance of responding to their concerns," says Parks and Recreation Director Ken Price.

- During the master planning of Leo Carrillo Historical Park, one resident suggested transforming the old barn into a theater. The suggestion was incorporated into the plans.
- Residents living south of Aviara Community Park expressed concern about noise and headlights from the parking lot intruding upon their lives. The City will install a buffer wall to alleviate the problem.

Park Development Manager Mark Steyeart has been involved with the planning of many parks during his 20-year tenure with the City. He reports, "A lot of creativity and excitement is generated through public input, ultimately fostering ownership of the park by the users and the entire community."

Further Information and Involvement

If you would like further information on parks and related topics, we invite you to:

- Contact Park Development Manager Mark Steyeart at 434-2855.
- Review a copy of the Parks & Recreation Element of the General Plan and/or the Capital Improvement Program available at the library and on the City's website at www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us.
- Check out related AVENUES on Open Space, Trails, etc. on the website.
- Call 434-2808 to sign up for the Carlsbad Citizens' Academy.

If you would like to observe and/or participate in the planning process, we invite you to:

- Attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, generally held on the third Monday at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.
- Learn about applying for membership on this or other volunteer advisory boards and commissions by calling the City Clerk at 434-2808.
- Attend a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, generally held on Tuesdays at 6 pm in the Council Chambers.
- Call 434-2820 to confirm above dates and times and to get more information on how you can help direct the avenues of your city's policies and programs.

